

# THE PALATKA NEWS AND ADVERTISER

The Palatka News and Advertiser has been determined by the Third and Last Postmaster General to be a publication entitled to admission to the mails as second-class matter, and has accordingly been so entered at the Palatka postoffice.

An unofficial Newspaper of the Democratic sort—just the kind you should keep in your family.

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**RUSSELL & VICKERS.**

WM. A. RUSSELL, EDITOR.

## COULD HE RECOGNIZE THE ARTICLE?

Said a resident of Palatka the other day to his colored barber, "It is impossible for a northern man to get justice in this country." This is a grave charge. Is it true?

Considered as an attribute of man, justice has to do with a man's intercourse with his fellows; considered with reference to the administration of law it means rendering to each party to a controversy the exact rights which are his due according to the law and the evidence. One of Plato's leading definitions of justice is that a person should "do his own things"—i. e., mind his own business and then he would be able to determine what a man's "own things" are by state authority. The Stoics, after a definition of the Platonic school, conceived it to be that which assigns to each his due or worth.

Whether the author of the above charge, made in a heart to heart talk with his barber, had in mind the application of justice in the administration of law, or in its equally important relations as between man and man, we do not know, but he had in mind one or the other, and possibly both.

Are the judges who preside in the courts of Florida men who are so filled with sectional prejudice that they cannot decide impartially and according to the law and the evidence, a case in which one of the parties litigant is from the north? The question is so ridiculously silly that it would be worse than waste of good paper and ink to dignify it with an answer. Palatka has had a recent example. A northern man was arrested charged with high crime. One of his accusers was an influential southern man, and his prosecuting attorneys were southern in every fibre. The judge who decided the case was a native Floridian. The northern man was discharged, and it is supposed he left town satisfied that he received justice. Anyway he got what he asked for. The question of section did not enter into the case, and we doubt if the witnesses, the attorneys or the judge ever gave a thought as to whether the accused was born in Horseheads, Kalumazoo, or Oshkosh, or as to whether he was ever really born at all.

But when it comes to justice under the Platonic definition regarding man's intercourse with his fellows—the minding of his own business—is it not just possible that a prejudiced Yankee can come into this country, get a full measure of justice, and still not be able to recognize it? We think so.

The writer is a northern man—that is to say he was born in the north, and that, too, without even being consulted in the matter. He has lived in Florida 15 years, and in that time has observed two classes of Yankee arrivals. Both were hospitably received. Perhaps the reader has seen both types.

There is the man who comes into the country determined to make himself agreeable. He identifies himself with the people. He may not find everything to his liking, but not being an overly exacting cuss, he puts up with such things as he does not like smilingly until such time as he can effect a change in the regular way. He does not affiliate with nor make his political bed with the negroes, but chooses for his associates politically as well as socially, his own kind. He isn't always busy making comparisons in which the thickly settled and wealthy sections of the north is party of the first part, and the sparsely settled and comparatively poor south is party of the second part. His charity is of the sort that could, if necessary, suffer long and still be kind. He believes that the God who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, also had a hand in the formation of Florida, and that so long as he stays here and behaves himself he has the same right to hope for salvation as though he were still doing business up in "York state."

If you have seen this type you have also seen its direct antithesis, and "it" is the one who is ostracized by this people, and justly so. And yet he is so dense that he thinks he has failed to get justice, when he has had it all along in inadequate doses.

He is the man who confides in the colored barber his real feelings about the country in which he makes his living.

## IT WILL NOT WORK.

In a recent letter to a county contemporary, the leading advocate of the dispensary in the county states that the present political issue is "saloons or the dispensary," and that he who is not for the dispensary must necessarily be in league with and the friend of the saloons, and that any one who has the effrontery to oppose his state's engaging in the business of selling liquor is a hypocrite.

While the News is not authorized to speak officially for the great body of high-minded and loyal Christian workers in Putnam county; for the clergy-men, who to a man oppose this dispensary measure, it feels it can rely on them in the approaching primaries to see that substantial justice is meted out to this man and all others of his ilk who go out of their way to offer gratuitous insult to the Christian men and women in the state and county who cannot be made to believe that the time has come for the state of Florida to be turned over bodily to the liquor industry and become the chief factor in dealing out death and liquid damnation to its citizens. That the saloons are interested in the defeat of the dispensary measure goes without saying. To them it is a matter of personal and selfish interest. But it requires no stretch of fancy to conceive of a band of Christian men and women, having other and unselfish motives, uniting in an effort to save the good name of Florida from the awful curse of a state entrenched saloon, managed by a low order of politicians.

## AN EXAMPLE OF NERVE.

Thus far in the canvass there are but two candidates for the supreme court bench in Florida, and from these two men democrats will make their choice in the approaching primaries. These candidates are Judge W. A. Hoeker of Ocala, formerly Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of which Putnam county forms a part, and Judge J. B. Wall, of Tampa. From information at hand it would appear that these gentlemen are at about a stand-off in so far as legal attainments and fitness for the judicial eminence are concerned, and no matter which may be selected for the place, the supreme bench of Florida will have had added to it a jurist for whom no citizen will ever be called upon to blush.

But while these candidates may be equally well equipped legally for the place they seek, do they each appeal with equal force in a political sense to democratic voters? The News thinks not, and for these reasons.

Judge Hoeker has been a consistent democrat always. He has never made an attempt to disrupt the organization and he has never "bolted" from it. If the organized democracy of the state or nation has, in his opinion, ever committed a mistake, Judge Hoeker has sought to rectify the error by laboring to change sentiment in the organization. He has never by act or word given one the idea that he felt himself superior to the majority wisdom of the party. That sort of a democrat is the kind that assists in victories; the kind that helps to rectify wrongs, and the kind that every true member of the organization ought to delight in honoring.

Can the same be said of Judge Wall? Well scarcely. During the presidential campaign in 1896, Judge Wall made speeches for the Palmer and Buckner ticket, and was a candidate for Presidential elector in that renegade movement. He not only bolted but denounced the very party from which he now asks one of the chief honors it has to bestow.

Democratic voters in Putnam county would likely support Judge Hoeker from feelings of strong personal attachment to their former judge, but those feelings are not the only ones which should weigh in the matter of making choice of the two candidates. As an exhibition of nerve the candidacy of Judge Wall "takes the bakery."

## COMPLAINT OF STRINGENT LAW.

It was only a short time ago that the inhabitants of the national capital were clamoring for a more stringent law regulating the granting of divorces. This was brought about in a great measure by the attitude of the social leaders of the administration towards divorced persons. The example of British upper-tendency was followed and divorced persons found it extremely difficult to retain the social standing that they had enjoyed during the period of their unhappy married life. It did not seem to make much difference what indignities a wronged party had suffered, to what desperate straits one had been driven before applying to the courts for relief; the fact that the person had been divorced was accepted as necessarily carrying with it a certain amount of moral obloquy.

So congress was asked to make divorces more difficult to obtain and congress did its work so well as to make legal separation in the District of Columbia next to impossible. Under the new law there exists only one cause for divorce—infidelity—and the offense must be clearly proven. There is no relief for the woman who has contracted an unfortunate alliance with a drunkard, a wife-beater or even a criminal. The wronged woman is coolly told that, having made her bed, she must lie in it; that while her life may be one unending torture, the "lesson to society" will be beneficial.

Already the effects of the stringent law are beginning to be felt and a cry for relief from the cruel exactions is being heard.

Divorce laws can be too strict as well as too lax. Because a woman has made a mistake in judgment is no reason why her whole life should be ruined by being compelled to remain tied to a man whom she has learned to despise with a just hatred. There is hardly a greater crime than the bringing into the world of children born to such unions. In many places divorces are too easily obtainable, but the District of Columbia has gone to the other extreme.

## WHAT A DISPENSARY WOULD DO.

The dispensary law in South Carolina has caused more discussion and turmoil and strife than any law ever caused in any State. We can have more than we need in Florida without its assistance. The attempts to evade the law and the fights made on it in the courts make up a chapter of South Carolina's history that we do not wish to see duplicated in Florida.

We do not believe that such a law would decrease drunkenness. Except as it is evaded, it would localize the purchase of intoxicants, but they would be sold at a place or places in each county where every man in the county goes often. If this should have any effect at all, it would be to make a trip to the market town mean a spree to a drinking man. If he wished whisky, and could only get it at some place that he did not visit every day, he would look forward to his visit to that place as a time when he could throw off the restraint that had interfered with the gratification of his appetite at home.

This is on the supposition that the dispensary system would interfere with the ability to drink except when going to town. As a matter of fact enough could be obtained at one visit to last until the next. Any man could drink at home—stay drunk at home all the time, if he wished.

The espionage which the enforcement of the dispensary laws would necessitate would be degrading. The best men in a community will not consent to act as spies. The enforcement of the laws will necessarily be entrusted to men who, to say the least of it, are not of the highest character—to a class of men who could not be counted on to resist corrupting influences.

If the object is to decrease the sale of intoxicants, it can be better accomplished in other ways. In other States local option laws have stopped their sale in many counties—in some States in most counties. The dispensary of South Carolina have cheapened whisky, and, as more can be bought for the same money than could be without the dispensary law, the tendency is to buy more. We would like to see the necessities and comforts of life placed in the reach of all, but we do not think that cheap whisky is an advantage to any community.—Times-Union and Citizen.

Mr. Squires, the new minister to Cuba, also gained great fame as the possessor of a splendid collection of Chinese loot.

## GIFT FROM FRANCE.

Portrait of Mrs. Roosevelt to Be Hung in White House.

Ambassador Cambon, on Behalf of the French Government, Will Present Work of M. Chartran to United States Government.

M. Cambon, the French ambassador, on behalf of the French government, will present to the United States the Chartran portrait of Mrs. Roosevelt, to be hung in the white house with the portraits of former presidents and their wives. M. Chartran's portrait of Mrs. Roosevelt, which was also ordered by the French government, has been presented to the family of the president.

Both pictures are now at the French embassy and packed ready for shipping to Europe, and will reach Paris in time for the summer season. After that is over they will be returned to America and formally presented to their respective recipients. The portrait of the president by M. Makovsky is still at the white house, having been painted with the object of presenting it to this government, but so far no definite presentation has been made.

It was rumored at the time of the reception to M. Chartran at the French embassy, when the pictures were for the first time shown to the public, that they were to be bought either by Senator Lodge or J. Pierpont Morgan, that of Mrs. Roosevelt to be presented to the white house and that of Miss Roosevelt to her family. Not until the other day, when it was announced that the French government had given the order for the portraits. Apparently there is a pretty little diplomatic episode behind these portraits. Germany sent over Prince Henry, England expected to entertain Miss Roosevelt, and so, to take a hand in this game of showing attention to Uncle Sam, France ordered these pictures as a present to the American people. When Russia sends an emerald ring or a portrait of sables for the white house the great powers will be on an equal footing once more.

## LOSES HAIR, NOT HEAD.

Street Car Knocks Down a Young Girl, But She Has a Miraculous Escape from Death.

Bertha Schilling, 12 years of age, of 490 Courtlandt avenue, New York city, had an odd experience the other afternoon, when she was knocked down by a car and had her hair cut off almost as clean as if by a pair of scissors. She was crossing Third avenue behind a south-bound car when a north-bound car confronted her. She stepped back to let it pass, but the side of the fender caught her and threw her heavily to the ground. In falling her long hair fell across the rail, although her head and body were out of danger. The forward wheel passed over the hair, cutting it off close to the scalp. Part of the scalp was pulled off.

The accident was witnessed by a large number of persons, many of whom supposed the girl was killed. After the car passed by a dozen men rushed to her assistance and raised her up. The girl smiled, but burst into tears when she realized that she had lost her hair, of which she was very proud. The severed curls were gathered up and handed to her. With them tucked securely under her arm, she ran home to tell her mother.

## VANDERBILT ARRESTED.

Held in Small French Town for Fast Riding in Automobile Without a Light.

W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., and David Wolfe Bishop arrived at Nice the other morning by automobile. They had a strange adventure while passing through Luc, in the department of the Var. When they reached the little town at nine o'clock at night they carried no light and were traveling at an immense speed. Suddenly a gendarme started up in front of them and ordered them to stop, which Mr. Vanderbilt immediately did.

The gendarme, being unable to make himself understood, took them to the station, where they were kept until the arrival of the brigadier next morning at five o'clock. After hearing their explanation the official allowed them to continue their route, but not before they had drawn up a process verbal against "Monsieur junior."

Mr. Vanderbilt and Mr. Bishop are still laughing at the adventure, which, they said, was not the first and not likely to be the last.

## Animals Are Her Hobby.

The duchess of Newcastle, keen sportsman and lover of animals, is always doing something to improve the lot of horses and dogs. Her favorite pony, "Lady White," is an object of her constant thought and care. She inherited her affection for horses from both her parents, who were both expert, fearless horsemen. Some of the most interesting animal trials ever known in England took place recently at the duke and duchess's apen dill country home at Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire.

## MEN WHO WIELD THE PEN.

Francis Jeffrey commonly spent two or three weeks on each of his articles in the Edinburgh Review.

Archduke Rainer of Austria has been made a doctor of philosophy honoris causa by the University of Vienna for his services to science in collecting and publishing Egyptian papyri.

Catulle Mendes has written a play on the Spanish mystic, Saint Theresa. It was accepted by the Comedie Francaise, but as there was no chance of its production before two years, it has been turned over to Sarah Bernhardt, who will bring it out at her theater.

A wealthy man once wrote to Mark Twain, who failed to answer his letter. The writer, who waited a considerable time for a reply, at length became so exasperated that he sent a sheet of paper and a stamp to the answer as a reminder. Mark Twain instantly replied on a post-card: "Paper and stamp received. Please forward envelope."

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